
Appendix A

Biographies of Members of the Commission on Asia in the Schools

Leann D. Arkema is the Executive Director of Gilda's Club Grand Rapids. She has also served as Community Services Director and Campaign Director for Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers (3rd District MI) and the Executive Director for St. Cecilia Music Society, one of the country's oldest music organizations located in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Michael Flanagan is the Executive Director of the Michigan Association of School Administrators, serving approximately 1,200 Michigan public school superintendents, first-line assistants, and associate members. He is also the Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, serving the 57 intermediate school districts. Mr. Flanagan was superintendent at the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency for seven years and superintendent of Farmington/Farmington Hills School District for five years. He currently serves on numerous boards and advisory task forces.

James A. Kelly is a senior advisor to education organizations, government agencies, foundations and corporations. His recent clients include the National Academy of Sciences, World Bank, Standard & Poors, and Atlantic Philanthropies. From 1987 to 1999, Jim Kelly was President and CEO of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS); in 1999 the NBPTS elected him to the lifetime position of Founding President. He serves as a board member of several educational and civic organizations, including as Vice Chairman of the Asia Society's National Commission on Asia in the Schools. He is a member of the National Academy of Education.

Linda Yuen-Ching Lim, Ph.D., is Professor of Corporate Strategy and International Business at the University of Michigan Business School. She also serves as Director of the Southeast Asia Business Program and Associate Director of the International Institute, and is a Faculty Associate of the Center for Chinese Studies, the Center for Japanese Studies, and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University. Dr. Lim consults frequently for United Nations agencies, U.S. and Asian companies, and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Asia Society.

Ghaus M. Malik, M.D., is Vice Chair of Neurosurgery at Henry Ford Health System and Chief of Neurosurgery at William Beaumont Hospital. Dr. Malik specializes in vascular neurosurgery with a special interest in the surgical management of aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, trigeminal neuralgia and complex tumors. He is President of the Michigan Association of Neurological Surgeons, and a member of several national and international neurosurgical and other professional organizations. He serves as Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit. Previously, he has been the President of the Pakistan Association of America and recipient of its Community Service Award.

Marisa Chuang Ming, Ph.D., is an industrial psychologist and community organizer. Dr. Ming's professional career has progressed from research and management positions in Michigan state and county governments to her current position as Executive Director of APACC-Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Ming also volunteers in leadership roles for civil rights, women, and Asian-American organizations. She is founder of the Detroit Coalition for Responsible Immigration Policy, founding member of the American Citizens for Justice, and former President of the Association of Chinese Americans. Her dedication in empowering minorities and immigrants has won her honors, such as the Vision In America award, given by international and national organizations

Hoa Nguyen is Assistant Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance at Lansing Community College, responsible for the development of the college's budgets. He has held the position of Chairman of the Vietnamese American Coalition of Michigan since 2000. The Coalition consists of several Vietnamese organizations in Michigan and supports various Vietnamese outreach efforts to their growing community. Mr. Nguyen has also worked with the Michigan Department of State as a budget analyst and has served as adjunct faculty teaching business classes at Northwood University, Olivet College and Jackson Community College.

Sheri Perelli is an international communications, marketing, and business development professional with 25 years of government, corporate, and consulting experience in Europe, North America, Africa, Asia and Latin America. Her independent consultancy serves a variety of international private, public, and non-profit organizations, focusing on forging multilateral partnerships in support of both non-profit and commercial education, communications, and business initiatives in developing markets.

Chandrakant Pujara M.D., F.A.C.C., is a practicing cardiologist affiliated with Oakwood Health system and Detroit Medical Center. Besides being actively involved in clinical practice, he also enjoys and participates actively in community, philanthropic, and educational organizations. He has served in various capacities at his hospitals and at Indian cultural and religious organizations in Michigan. Dr. Pujara is the president-elect of Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (MAPI) and also serves as a Chair on the Electronic and I.T. Committee of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin.

Izumi Suzuki, President of Suzuki, Myers & Associates, is also the Administrator of the Japanese Language Division, the Chair of the English-to-Japanese Accreditation Sub-Committee of the American Translators Association and the President of the Michigan Translators/Interpreters Network. Her steady clients include top executives of all the major companies in the US/Japan automotive interface. Having been involved in the educational systems of Michigan and Japan, Ms. Suzuki raised two quadrilingual children through the schools of Michigan and New York.

Vinh Trinh is a business and organizational strategist to educational, profit, and non-profit organizations and government agencies. Currently he is working with Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA), the Multi-Cultural Resource Network, Davenport University, Grand Valley State University, the University of Michigan, the U.S. Commercial Service in Vietnam, the Vietnam Ministry of Trade and Education, Hanoi Tourism, Vinasun Travel, Saigon Tourist, and the ASEAN Federation of Plastic Industries. Vinh has over 20 years of experience in international business. He was previously Director of Asia Pacific at Herman Miller Inc., and KPMG Project Manager at Boeing, IBM Principal. He is the president of International Business Management, Inc. (IBMI).

Tina S. Van Dam is Corporate Secretary of The Dow Chemical Company. As an attorney, she is a member of the Dow Legal Department and Senior Managing Counsel in Corporate and Securities Law. Prior to joining Dow, Ms. Van Dam was Director of Fund Development for MidMichigan Medical Center.

Padma Raj Vattikuti is Vice President of the Vattikuti Foundation, providing medical research funding to two Detroit-area hospitals. She also led the efforts of the India Earthquake Relief Organization of Michigan to assist the victims of the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat, India. Ms. Vattikuti also serves on the boards of the Merrill-Palmer Institute for Family and Child Development at Wayne State University and the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Olivia Visperas is Area Director, Corporate Affairs for Comcast's Detroit East Area. In her capacity she oversees government affairs and public relations duties for a subscriber base area of approximately 470,000 of the 1.1 million Comcast customers in Michigan. Previously, Ms. Visperas was Director of Ethnic Coalitions for the Abraham 2000 campaign and Staff Assistant for former U.S. Senator Spence Abraham's southeast Michigan area.

Furhad Waquad is a Certified International Property Specialist and Sales Consultant with With Real Estate One, Inc. He is very active at the local, state and national levels of the real estate industry. Mr. Waquad serves as a director of his local association, Director-elect and Chair for the Public Policy Committee for the Michigan Association of Realtors, and on the Public Policy Coordinating Committee of the National Association of Realtors. He also takes on leadership roles in many community organizations as President of the Pakistan American Friendship society, President-elect of the Pakistan Association of America, and a founding member of the Human Development Foundation of North America.

Commission Staff

Madhu R. Anderson is Director of the Michigan Commission on Asia in the Schools. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Anderson directed the Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information and served as Chief Deputy Treasurer for the State of Michigan.

Amanda Bright, Research Assistant for the Michigan Commission on Asia in the Schools, is a candidate for a Master of Public Policy at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy. Upon the completion of her degree, Ms. Bright plans to work with state and local governments on education and child health policy issues.

Valenta Kabo, Research Assistant for the Michigan Commission on Asia in the Schools, is a candidate for a Master of Public Policy at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy. Ms. Kabo also currently practices immigration law in Ann Arbor, Michigan.